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Hongkong, 6th December, 1890. (11)

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PORTS. (For Invalids and general use.)

| | Per Case | Per Bottle |
|--|----------|------------|
| A Alto Douro, good quality, Green Capsule..... | \$10 | \$1.00 |
| B Vintage, Superior quality, Red Capsule..... | 12 | 1.10 |
| C Fine Old Vintage, Superior quality, Black Seal Capsule..... | 14 | 1.25 |
| D Very Fine Old Vintage, extra superior, Violet Capsule (Old Bottled)..... | 18 | 1.50 |

SHERRIES.

| | | |
|---|------|------|
| A Delicate Pale Dry, dinner wine, Green Capsule..... | 6 | 0.60 |
| B Superior Pale Dry, dinner wine, Green Seal Capsule..... | 7.50 | 0.75 |
| C Manzanilla, Pale Natural Sherry, White Capsule..... | 10 | 1.00 |
| CC Superior Old Dry, Pale Natural Sherry, Red Seal Capsule..... | 10 | 1.00 |
| D Very Superior Old Pale Dry, choice old wine, White Seal Capsule..... | 10 | 1.00 |
| E Extra Superior Old Pale Dry, very fine quality, Black Seal Capsule (Old Bottled)..... | 14 | 1.50 |

CLARETS.

| | | |
|---|------|--------|
| A Superior Breakfast Claret, Red Capsule..... | \$4 | \$0.50 |
| B St. Estephe, Red Capsule..... | 4.50 | 0.50 |
| C St. Julien..... | 7 | 0.75 |
| D La Rose..... | 12 | 1.00 |

BRANDY.

| | | |
|---|------|--------|
| A Hennessy's Old Pale, Red Capsule..... | \$12 | \$1.10 |
| B Superior Very Old Cognac, Red Capsule..... | 14 | 1.25 |
| C Very Old Liqueur Cognac, Red Capsule..... | 18 | 1.50 |
| D Hennessy's Finest Very Old Liqueur Cognac, 1873 Vintage, Red Capsule..... | 24 | 2.00 |

SCOTCH WHISKY.

| | | |
|--|----|------|
| A Thorne's Blend, White Capsule..... | 8 | 0.75 |
| B Watson's Glenorchy Mellow Blend, Blue Capsule with Name and Trade Mark..... | 8 | 0.75 |
| C Watson's Abou-Glenlivet, Red Capsule with Name and Trade Mark..... | 8 | 0.75 |
| D Watson's H. K. D Blend of the Finest Scotch Malt Whiskies, Violet Capsule..... | 10 | 1.00 |
| E Watson's Very Old Liqueur Scotch Whisky, Gold Capsule..... | 12 | 1.10 |

IRISH WHISKY.

| | | |
|---|----|------|
| A John Jameson's Old, Green Capsule..... | 8 | 0.75 |
| B John Jameson's Fine Old, Green Capsule..... | 10 | 1.00 |
| C John Jameson's Very Fine Old, Green Capsule..... | 12 | 1.10 |
| D GENUINE BOURBON WHISKY, fine old, Red Capsule, with Name..... | 10 | 1.00 |

GIN.

| | | |
|--|------|------|
| A Fine Old Tom, White Capsule..... | 4.50 | 0.40 |
| B Fine Unsweetened, White Capsule..... | 4.50 | 0.40 |
| C Fine A. V. H. Geneva..... | 4.50 | 0.50 |

RUM.

| | | |
|---|--------|-------------|
| Finest Old Jamaica, Violet Capsule..... | 12 | 1.00 |
| Good Lecward Island..... | \$1.50 | per Gallon. |

LIQUEURS.

| | |
|-------------|-------------------------------------|
| Benedictine | Maraschino |
| Curaçao | Herring's Cherry Cordial |
| Chartreuse | Dr. Siegel's Angostura Bitters, &c. |

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MUST BE PAID IN ADVANCE.

The Hongkong Telegraph.

HONGKONG, MONDAY, DECEMBER 15, 1890.

"England expects every man to do his duty" were the memorable words signalled by the heroic Nelson, from his flagship *Victory*, on that historic morning when the naval supremacy of Great Britain was established in sight of the world in the bay of Trafalgar; and after the united fleets of France and Spain had been hopelessly crushed and shattered by the fiery onslaught of the famed "wooden walls," England confessed that every man had done his duty. And England to her eternal disgrace, at the termination of the war, with stony indifference left her naval heroes, the men who had so nobly done their duty and saved the country, to starve or eke out a miserable existence the best way they could. The high officers of the Fleet were, of course, not forgotten, and honors and rewards were showered on them with lavish profusion; but the sailors and marines, the men whose resolute bravery against fearful odds won the victory, were alike forgotten and neglected. And it always has been like this in our free and enlightened country, where every man, as we are constantly being told by lying and shameless politicians and their parasites, is on an equality, the possessor of equal rights. How much longer this shallow delusion is likely to be tamely tolerated by a powerful and ever increasing democracy that is only beginning to feel its own strength we are not in a position to say with any approach to reliability; but the day cannot be very far distant, and it undoubtedly is being hastened by the incomprehensible and heartless stupidity of that favored class to whom the new era of events that are sure to come will inevitably bring complete annihilation as a power in the land. The pitiable spectacle of Nero fiddling in his gorgeous palace whilst imperial Rome was in the throes of destruction, conveys an instructive lesson which modern would-be imitators of that once living monument of old time folly might with great advantage to their own future welfare earnestly study and carefully take to heart.

"When shall their glory fade? Honour the Light Brigade; gallant Six Hundred," is the summing up of that deathless poem of battle and triumph with which ALFRED TENNYSON, then a Son of the People and not a slave to a hollow title and a meretricious dignity, trumpet-tongued, electrified the world almost as much as that wild charge through the "valley of death" of Britain's best and bravest on what was a hopeless, useless, and inexcusable sacrifice of human life, stupified the army of military critics. "C'est magnifique mais n'est pas la guerre," was the significant comment of the French Commander-in-Chief, and no more daring soldier than Marshal FLORENTIN ever planned a campaign or led a forlorn hope. "When shall their glory fade? Honour the Light Brigade." Why even now, after a lapse of nearly forty years, the poet's pregnant words possess a power in stirring the British heart in every part of the world; we are indeed proud, and as Britons justly proud of that death-ride of our countrymen, which as an instance of combined valour and discipline has scarcely a parallel in the history of nations. And how did Great Britain reward her heroic sons, "all that was left of them, left of Six Hundred," when the hour of victory with all its frothy enthusiasm had passed away and the Black Sea treaty, which added so much to the roll of human suffering had been torn in shreds and flung in England's face! By honours, titles, dignities, adequate provision for the remainder of their ruined and broken lives? No! by none of these; generous England provided for her heroes by allowing them in the days of their adversity and old age to find refuge in the work-house.

The Crimean campaign is admitted by all military authorities to have been the most severe ordeal the modern soldier has ever had to face. The self-denying patience, the loyal courage, that never failed however sorely tried, the unshrinking fidelity to duty, and the indomitable energy and perseverance displayed in the extraordinary labours of the most arduous description which had to be accomplished under exceptional difficulties, may possibly have been equalled by other troops, but they have never been excelled; and it must not be forgotten how the Commissariat arrangements disgracefully broke down with the result that, throughout long dreary months of snow and ice, the half-clad, half-starved and wretchedly equipped British Army, although fearfully decimated by disease, fought and conquered time after time against overwhelming odds. It is one of these fights, INKERMANN, "the soldiers' battle," that is our excuse for this article. The battle of INKERMANN was fought on the

5th November, 1854, and a few weeks ago a hundred old soldiers, the remnant of the brigade of Guards who were in the thick of that day of carnage, thought that the thirty-sixth anniversary of the great event of their lives would be a fitting occasion for old friends and comrades to meet together after the lapse of so many years. Arrangements were accordingly made that the hundred survivors should parade at Wellington Barracks, and the Duke of CAMBRIDGE who held a command in the Guards at INKERMANN, was invited to be present. The noble "Dook" had a prior engagement, and when the little band of veterans assembled at the gates of the Barracks at the appointed hour, they were refused admission. They were officially ignored, although it is stated that among the hundred were two Victoria Cross heroes, several who wore the medal for distinguished service in the field, while nearly all had the four clasps that told of their presence in the battles of the Alma, Balaclava, and Inkerman, and of long service in the trenches before Sebastopol. Not a single officer of the Headquarters Staff, or one who had fought with them in the Crimea, appeared to notice their presence, and we are told that "the veterans seemed to feel this neglect very keenly, especially as the guard told off for duty was on parade in the barrack-square, bearing the Queen's and regimental colours, which were bedecked in honour of the day with the laurels these men had helped to win at Inkerman." Neglected with contumely the old warriors quietly followed the guard to St. James's Palace, uncovered their grey heads and "in voices that quavered a little," cheered the old colours once more. And then they went home, doubtless paralysed with joy at the appreciation of a grateful country.

Commenting on this scandalous treatment of these relics of a gallant Brigade the tendency of which can only be to disgust our soldiers and to make the Army still more unpopular, a London contemporary says—

"It is a sad story, that of the Inkerman heroes. No poet has hymned the praise of the men whose stand round the Sandbag Battery saved the British army from being swept in blood to the sea. Historians have done the officers justice, but as for the men themselves—who so poor as to do them reverence now? They organized a little memorial dinner among themselves the other day and invited the Duke of Cambridge to attend. The Duke pleads 'a prior engagement.' Can anything be meaner? The Guard who fought the hand-to-hand fight round the Sandbag Battery fought with savage ferocity. I was a soldier's boy, for the officers were either killed or paralysed with fear at the luncheon they had let loose. But if these men were at their enemies like wild beasts, is that any reason why one of their officers—the Duke of Cambridge—should give them the cold shoulder? He sat among them at the crisis of the fight and blubbered a baby because of the horrors that he witnessed around him. Well, we do not deny that on a field of battle the Duke of Cambridge was a coward. But to the letting loose of the Duke of Cambridge owes his subsequently luxurious life, and the country his roved determination never again to expose his prominent paunch to the bayonet of an enemy. Yet he frowns contemptuously on the survivors of those who shed their blood to keep his soul and body together, and when they even venture to ask the use of their old barracks for an anniversary celebration, he shuts the door in their face."

"England expects every man to do his duty," and the men who nobly answer their country's expectations are shamefully neglected and relegated to the work-house. Field-Marshal the Duke of CAMBRIDGE, whose warlike idea of an officer's duty on the battle-field was to "sit blubbering like a baby at the crisis of the fight," is a living example of Britain's impartiality in the treatment of her soldiers. To the brave man who loses a limb in the front of battle, there is always the work-house to go to; whilst the royal warrior who sits down and blubbers in the rear obtains a Field Marshal's baton and is nursed in the lap of luxury for the remainder of his days at the public expense. And yet some people wonder how a British Revolution can ever be possible.

TELEGRAMS.

IRISH POLITICS.

LONDON, December, 12th.
Sir John Pope Hennessy, who is a candidate for the representation of North Kilkenny, has sided with the Anti-Parnellites.

LOCAL AND GENERAL.

THE returns of the number of visitors to the City Hall Museum for the week ending Dec. 14th, are:—Europeans 172, and Chinese 1,744.

A MEETING of the Victoria Freemasonry and Priory, will be held in Freemasons' Hall, Zeland Street, this evening, at 8.30 for 9 o'clock precisely. Visiting Brethren are cordially invited to attend.

A GERMAN named Emil Luder was brought before Mr. Wodehouse this morning charged with having caused the death of a sailor named C. Andersen on the 13th inst. Evidence went to show that on the day the accident occurred the prisoner and deceased were comparing revolvers—they were perfectly sober and friendly, and the revolver went off accidentally and the bullet entered Andersen's right breast. There being no evidence against the accused he was discharged.

THERE will be a game of polo at Causeway Bay to-morrow afternoon, commencing at 4.30 o'clock.

WE are informed by the agent of the Messageries Maritimes that the Company's steamer *Sydney*, with the next French mail, left Saigon for this port at 2 a.m. to-day.

M.S. *Albatross*, Capt. Adair, with Vice-Admiral Sir Newell Salmon, K.C.B., Lady Salmon, Miss Salmon and Miss Saunders, on board, arrived in port from Shanghai this forenoon.

A CITIZEN of Flemming, Kentucky, fired at a rat, struck a keg of powder, blew his house to pieces, and had to jump into the river to keep from burning up. The whereabouts of the rat is still shrouded in mystery.

THE fire-bell rang out its stirring chimes at 6 o'clock this evening owing to the outbreak of fire in 29, Strand Street, a so-called club. The building was completely gutted and, when going to press, it was far from under control.

HANCROFT, retired actor, has offered to donate £1,000 if ninety-nine others will each subscribe a like sum, to provide "General" Booth with the money necessary to make a trial of his gigantic scheme for the improvement of the condition of the lower classes.

MISS Colborne-Baker, who was here last April with Mr. T. Hudson's company, was one of the vocalists at Mr. Stanley's farewell concert at the Sydney Centennial Hall a few weeks since, and is now "touring" through New Zealand with the Marion Burton Company.

At the Police Court this morning Tsang Li was brought before Mr. Wodehouse, charged with the murder of one Tsang Kum. He—a fellow lodger. Evidence was adduced tending to prove that the murder was committed by prisoner, with an axe in Tuk Sin lane on the 27th ult. Trial next sessions.

THE Band of the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders will play the following programme at the Officers' Mess to-morrow evening, commencing at 7.45 o'clock:—

Overture, "The Fiddler's Reel".....Adams.
"The Fiddler's Reel".....Adams.
"The Fiddler's Reel".....Adams.
"The Fiddler's Reel".....Adams.
"The Fiddler's Reel".....Adams.

THE British steamer *Woolwich* which arrived here this afternoon having sighted and "spoken" the *Namoa* as follows:—"At 6.30 p.m. on the 13th instant anchored in Harlem Bay. The steamer *Namoa* I followed in, reported that she had been attacked by pirates and was being towed away to sea. We followed her and this refers to the *Namoa*, last trip out, on Saturday, under command of Captain Goddard.

"SLY" grog selling is not only far from being respectable, but expensive too—i.e. at least so couple of enterprising traders in that line of business found it this morning when Mr. Wodehouse was asked to put a price on two bottles of *samsu* that the accused had sold to some sailors on board the steamship *Pemphix*. "Get a bottle or six weeks' jug" was his Worship's estimate of the offence. *Samsu*'s evidently on the boom.

THE following letter, which has been sent to us for publication, was addressed to the Colonial Secretary (Mr. W. M. Deane) by the Secretary of the Hongkong Chamber of Commerce:—

HONGKONG GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, Hongkong, December 13th, 1890.

SIR—I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your esteemed communications of 10th November and 11th December having reference to a suggested reduction in postal rates, and requesting that His Excellency the Governor administering the Government might be furnished with the views of the Committee of this Chamber with regard to the proposed change.

My Committee desire me to state with reference to the contemplated diminution of rates of postage by the mails between this and Europe that in principle, as being a benefit to trade, and doing away with the existing anomaly of heavier rates of postage being charged by the English mails than those of other countries, the alteration is one that commends itself for adoption. At the same time my committee with the meagre information before them are unable to express an opinion upon the policy of the change as it will affect the finances of the Colony. The Colony's Postal Establishment appears to leave a small profit while the calculations submitted as the result of the contemplated reduction of postage would probably sweep away the profit and result in loss to this branch of public revenue. Again the payments with which this particular item of Postal Revenue is saddled, say "Contribution towards P. & O. Subsidy" and "share of other Countries" would seem to show that the Colony is already more heavily burdened than it should be for the pecuniary benefit derived from these particular mails. It also strikes my Committee that some rectification should take place in the payments as stated in the Assistant Postmaster's Report paragraph No. 17 which shows that each letter by English mails charged postage at the rate of 5d. per half ounce contributes from that amount 309d. to the various Countries through which it passes leaving a positive loss to this Colony which it will have to bear, not for its own mail matter only, but also for that of the Treaty Ports in China, if rates are reduced. It seems reasonable to expect that the whole of the loss caused by the postage reduction should not attach to this colony but that a modification of the sums paid to

| | |
|---------------------|------|
| Egypt..... | 0.28 |
| Italy..... | 0.53 |
| France..... | 0.67 |
| United Kingdom..... | 1.67 |

309d.

should if possible form part of the scheme when the proposed reduction is discussed. Without some reduction in the present charge, even if it be possible only from the contemplated reduced postage scale will fall upon this colony. The policy of other nations—who with far less trade interests in China than Great Britain and who subsidize mails to the East, appears to be to bear the entire cost of such mail communications themselves.

My Committee would also suggest that the face value of the present postage stamp could—as a temporary measure—be altered to accord with any unit that may be decided upon by simply printing on the stamp at present in use, in bold black figures the new value that may be decided.

It may perhaps be worth considering whether, in the future, the denomination of the stamps for European mails, as old battered, from local currency, to sterling, this would, in a great measure, overcome the loss or profit from exchange fluctuations falling upon the Government and cause that incidence to be with those who are mainly interested.

I have, etc.,

(Sd.) F. HENDERSON,
Secretary.
Hon. W. M. Deane, M.A., C.M.G.,
Acting Colonial Secretary.

An regular meeting of the Southern Lodge No. 26, E.C., held at the Free Mason's Hall, Zeland St. on Saturday last. Wm. Bro. G. P. Jordan was elected master of the Lodge.

OUR report of to-day's meeting of the Legislative Council is unavoidably held over until to-morrow. During the proceedings His Excellency the Acting Governor announced that Sir William Des Voeux might be expected here in the English mail steamer due on Monday the 22nd inst. For that reason it was decided to hold the next meeting of the Council at eleven o'clock next Saturday morning in lieu of the regular Monday afternoon meeting.

WE hear that the wounded officers and men of the steamship *Namoa* who were taken to the Civil Hospital on Thursday last, and whose condition was of no serious nature, are now recovering. The taking down of their positions by Mr. Wodehouse yesterday, are to-day so much better that hopes of their ultimate recovery are by no means despaired of. Detective Inspector Quincy returned from Macao this afternoon, but from what we can gather his visit has resulted in nil.

"Is that dog of yours good for anything?" he asked of a saloon-keeper on Michigan-avenue, as he motioned to a canine that lay behind the stove. "Is he? You just lay your hand on my shoulder and utter a whoop." The man did so, and the dog sprang up and bit his owner in the leg and gracefully retired. "How do you account for that?" asked the inquirer as a general laugh went round. "Honest! I had forgotten that was cross-eyed!" was the reply. "I ought to have put my hand on your shoulder and yelled."

THE clever little actress who made such a great hit as "the gutta-serena girl" in "The Arabian Nights" in this colony was playing *Eva* in "Uncle Tom's Cabin" at Sydney Opera House, according to our latest advices from that city. The *Bulletin* critic cheerfully remarks that "this little Eva is a ghastly mockery under present conditions, for whereas she starts off by being a real child, the consumptive innocent subsequently turns up as Grace Whiteford, whose infancy is of an apocryphal character entirely, more especially when she sings." Rather rough on Grace!

TSANG YAN on remand, was so before Mr. Wodehouse at the Police Court this morning, charged with having brutally ill-treated his wife at Yau-mai on the 5th inst. The first hearing of the case was reported before, but additional particulars were elicited to-day. It appears that he bound the feet and hands of the unfortunate woman with a rope, and then hoisted her to a ladder with her head hanging down. Then lighting a bundle of "Joss" sticks he proceeded to apply them to the most delicate portions of her anatomy. Her mother-in-law and other relatives were present, and the purifying process was conducted with their full sanction. His Worship delivered a long lecture and six months' imprisonment, but both of these added together are not a third of the ruffian's deserts.

A MOST remarkable remembrance has just come to light in Kansas City says a recent American telegram. Twenty-five years ago, two babes, brother and sister, were abandoned in Castle Garden by their parents. They were adopted by different people. The girl lived with her foster-mother, Mrs. Evans in Philadelphia. The boy was adopted by a man named Barr, grew up, learned a trade and went to Philadelphia. There he met Miss Evans, fell in love with her, and in due course of time they were married and came to Kansas City to live. A year or so ago Mrs. Evans died, and soon after a relative in Canada died intestate, leaving a large fortune. The detectives, in searching for Mrs. Evans' adopted child, discovered the story and told it to Mr. and Mrs. Barr. No issue has resulted from the marriage. Legal proceedings will at once be taken to annul it, and the brother and sister will then take possession of the fortune.

SUPREME COURT.

IN ORIGINAL JURISDICTION.

(Before Sir James Russell, Chief Justice.)

THE POWERS OF COURTS OF SURVEY.

Kwok Ahock, as owner of the British steamship *Patig*, a Hongkong-Canton regular trader, brought an action against the Attorney-General in consequence of his alleged wrongful action, in causing the steamer *Patig* to be detained in Hongkong for four days in the month of February 1889 while a Court of Survey was held with a view to deciding as to the seaworthiness of the said steamer which had been called in question. Mr. Edward Robinson, instructed by Mr. C. D. Wilkinson, of Messrs. Caldwell and Wilkinson appeared for the Plaintiff, and the Acting-Attorney-General, Mr. E. J. Ackroyd, instructed by Mr. Johnson, Crown Solicitor appeared in person.

Mr. Robinson in opening, said the suit was brought to recover damages to the extent of \$3,000 in respect to the wrongful detention of the steamer *Patig*, and the issue before His Lordship was whether or not the decision of the Court of Survey, which sat upon the case last year, was conclusive and whether the defendant was entitled in the action to produce evidence to show that the finding of the Court of Survey was *de facto*, a wrong one.

In the course of a lengthy argument upon the question Mr. Robinson said that there were three points which he would raise:—

Firstly, the fitness of the court to sit on the case on the 5th February 1889.

Secondly, the fitness of the court to sit on the case on the 5th February 1889.

Thirdly, the liability of His Excellency the Governor to make compensation for the detention, which it had been shown was unjustifiable by the act of the Court in deciding that the *Patig* was not in an unsafe condition.

It would be for His Lordship to decide whether it was in the competence of the Court to find that there was reasonable and probable cause for the detention. It was, he admitted, within the right of the Governor to cause the detention of a ship if there appeared reasonable and probable cause for such detention, and the Governor could, under the Ordinance, refer the matter to a Court of Survey, which he did. The question turned upon the words of the Ordinance, (No. 9 of 1889) "If it appears to the Court that the ship is unworthy they could detain her. But, by the finding of such court, 'It appeared' that there was no sufficient cause then the Governor was liable for having taken the initiative, upon the suggestion of the Attorney-General, and thereby causing the detention of the ship. The ground of liability to pay costs was the same as the grounds for liability to make compensation.

Mr. Ackroyd—We admit the liability as to costs.

Mr. Robinson—The certificate of the ship was cancelled by the act of detention.

His Lordship—No, the certificate was not cancelled. It was rendered inoperative for the time being.

Mr. Robinson continuing said, as to compensation the Court of Survey could not decide the amount of compensation due; that was not within their competence.

Mr. Ackroyd contended that the detention of the ship for survey was justifiable, and that those who take the first steps in causing such a survey to be held were not liable. There was a survey to be held were not liable. There was a survey to be held were not liable. There was a survey to be held were not liable.

His Lordship—Do you mean to say that after starting the case you can turn round and say you are not responsible?

Mr. Ackroyd said that an action could not be brought against him as a party to the Court of Survey. His contention was, that as he did not take part in the Court, he could not be held in any way responsible.

Mr. Robinson submitted that Mr. Ackroyd was undoubtedly a party to the Court of Survey held on the 5th inst., and that he had no right to say he was not responsible. If allowed, he would amend the petition by putting in the words "the Governor did appear, by the Attorney-General." The Court of Survey could not be held responsible for the absence of reasonable and probable cause, and in the absence of a finding by the Court of Survey, a compensation for the detention of the ship, a judgment was reserved.

HONGKONG RIFLE ASSOCIATION.

The sixth competition for the Subscription Challenge Cups and Range Spoons was held on Saturday, the 13th inst., the distance being 800 and 900 yards. Ten shots were fired at each range. The 800 yards spoon was won by Mr. Ford with a score of 35 points; that at 900 yards by Constable A. Watson with 34 points. The cup was also won for the first time in this competition by Police Constable A. Watson, who has already won the Short Range Cup twice. Eleven members competed. The light was good, though unfortunately the wind was again puffy. Appended are the five best scores:—

| | 800 yards | 900 yards | Points Total |
|----------------------|-----------|-----------|--------------|
| P. C. A. Watson..... | 35 | 34 | 69 |
| Constable Ford..... | 35 | 30 | 65 |
| Frank Collins..... | 30 | 24 | 54 |
| J. C. Woodin..... | 28 | 24 | 52 |
| P. C. J. Carson..... | 25 | 24 | 49 |

CORRESPONDENCE.

(We do not necessarily endorse the opinions expressed by Correspondents in this column.)

ANOTHER GRIEVANCE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "HONGKONG TELEGRAPH." SIR,—As I and many others can but view with alarm the suggestions of the public Press relative to the necessity for officers of merchant steamers to turn themselves into Customs House searchers, and be compelled to "go through" all Chinese passengers' baggage etc. whenever a steamer is sailing either from Singapore or Hongkong, I trust you will do me the favour to allow me space in your columns for a protest against any such conversion, or subversion, of the mercantile marine officer.

As a matter of fact many of my brother officers urged shipowners to cause the Government to adopt strict preventive measures just after the perpetration of atrocities on board the *Grayhound* in 1885, and nothing came of it. For a while rifles, revolvers, daggers, etc. were "all the go," much to the advantage of local arms-dealers, but after a while not only shipowners, but also underwriters, the travelling public and officers and engineers came to the conclusion that a recurrence of such an outrage on board a British ship could not possibly happen again. And so all went on in a happy-go-lucky way until last Wednesday when the *Namoa* was seized by a gang of men who were led, it now appears, by the very man who was the ringleader in the *Grayhound* affair! Further comment is unnecessary, suffice it to say that as far as I know at present marine officers will object (and that may mean something serious) to being turned into Customs House runners and searchers. They have quite enough to do for the pittance they receive for working week days and Sundays, and they will hardly now submit to the new duties that it is proposed to impose on them. It is for the shipowners and the Government—both of whom have been guilty of what I, and many others, can but term gross negligence—to employ some other means to prevent these outrages, than by putting the work on the shoulders of the officers of ships. As we have no Customs officers here, then let the Government start a proper preventive service. The preventive officers could be used for two purposes at least:—Firstly, to search Chinese passengers and their baggage; and, secondly, to prevent ships working on Sunday—which is a duty that must ere long be provided for, unless I am very much mistaken.

